

# THE OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES

EXCLUSIVE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT

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## WRECKED LIVES LEFT BY SLAVS

Honorable Story of Russian Ex-  
cesses In Eastern Prussia  
Told By Corey.

## WOMEN SUFFER CRUELTIIES

High Officers Encourage Soldiers  
In Orgies In Conquered  
Land.

By Herbert Corey.

GUMBINNEN, Prussia, April 3.—An army of savages ravaged Eastern Prussia.

Assault and arson and pillage were essential parts of their plan of campaign. Where Russ and Cossack passed there is not a sound roof tree. There is not a cow or horse or sheep. There is not a bit of property remaining, save the bare land and the heaps of blown-up stones. Not one bit. All of the lesser valuables have been carried off or destroyed.

These acts were not the excesses of an ill-disciplined army. They suffered in every town. The Russian officers made no attempt to restrain them. In some towns they participated in horrid orgies.

These acts were not the excesses of an ill-disciplined army. They were a part of a considered plan. It is the way that Russia makes war. I do not know that Petrograd assented to it. I do not know that he should have known. Months ago the emperor of Germany, in a note to President Wilson, called the attention of the world to Russian cruelties in Eastern Prussia. Nothing was done. Little was even said.

The Russian made war in 1915 precisely as he made war in 1915. He ruined forever the lives of the unfortunate women who fell into his hands. He burned every house he came to. He acted up to the highest standards of sadistic torturers. He was followed by a cloud of thieving peasants from Russia, who completed his work of destruction. He sent long hopeless lines of women and children as prisoners to Russia. He broke every law of war between nations and every rule of human honor and every consideration of decency.

I hope to tell what I have seen in a most dispassionate manner. I do not want to lessen the effect of what I have to say by any display of passion. But it is sometimes difficult to preserve a purely judicial attitude when an old woman totters up to you—as Mary Michaelovitch did—to me on the streets of Plikallen—and sieges you by the coat.

The Story of Menna Michaelovitch. "I kissed his hand," she cried. "I begged the Cossack to spare my Momma. We fought him, but others came."

Menna Michaelovitch, a tall girl, handsome in an abundant peasant fashion, took the weeping, trembling old woman in her arms. What divine creatures these women are! This girl's life was utterly ruined. Her sunken cheeks told of her suffering. And yet her eyes were filled with a brooding pity for this shaking old woman who had borne her?

"Come, mother," she said. "We will go home."

The Russian forces held a full third of Eastern Prussia. They entered early in August, and they were finally driven from German soil in the last days of February. This is the most prosperous portion of Germany, agriculturally. There is no rural section of the United States where the houses and barns are on an average one-half so substantial. All are of brick or stone, and all are commodious. Most farmers own their land. The towns and villages are well laid out. In German lands they were clean. Except that wood is not used in construction, these places might be particularly tidy. Few towns in our middle west.

Edward Lyell Fox and myself visited these ravaged places immediately after the Russians were driven out. In some places the Cossacks had left a bare two days before we came. Elsewhere we were a week or more behind them. We subjected each story told to us to the test of care and investigation. We took nothing second hand. We insisted upon proof that would stand in a court of law. We got it. For every charge I shall make against the Russians I have the statements of the victims themselves, made in the presence of witnesses. I have sworn statements of eye-witnesses in my possession. I have transcripts from the official records.

Snaping Not the Excuse.

It is important to remember that there is no hint by any one that these

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## FIGHT BULLETINS AT NEW LOCATION

Bulletins giving every stage of the Willard-Johnson fight at Havana next Monday will be given by The Times at the new office, No. 3 West Main street, next Monday. Megaphone details of the fight will be given at the same time.

Those who want to know about the Willard-Johnson fight right off the wire are invited to be in front of the new office of The Times, No. 3 West Main, Monday afternoon. The fight is scheduled to begin at 12 o'clock, Oklahoma City time. At its conclusion an extra edition will be issued. An Associated Press wire from the ringside to The Times office will carry details of the fight to the crowd in front.

## AMERICANS RECALLED

Five Army Officers With Germans at Front Ordered By Cable to Return at Once.

BERLIN, Fla., London, April 3.—Five American army officers who have been assigned to the German military forces in the capacity of observers were ordered by cable today to return to the United States at once. The order came as a surprise, as they expected to remain in Europe until the end of the war.

Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Kuhn, of the engineers, who also has been acting as an observer, was not included in the order as he has been designated as military attaché at Berlin to succeed Major George T. Langhorne, Jr., who recently returned to the United States. Officers since their arrival in Germany, December 2, have spent two weeks on the western front and one week in the east. Those affected by the order are Major C. C. Williams of the ordnance department; Major D. F. Aufmann, of the field artillery; Captain S. D. Reichenbach of the cavalry; Captain W. B. Hurtz of the infantry and Captain S. M. Sharpe of the coast artillery.

PARDONS ARE REFUSED

Men Convicted For Conspiracy to Defraud Must Serve Sentence Says President Wilson.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—President Wilson has decided not to grant pardons to J. H. Merkley, W. H. Armstrong Jr., A. G. Stewart, J. B. Miller and C. M. McMahon, connected with the International Linseed and Development company, and under sentence by the federal court in Philadelphia for conspiracy to defraud through use of the mails.

The president on March 10, the day the five were to begin serving their sentences, announced that he had granted a respite for thirty days. The department of justice recently began the collection of facts in connection with the case pending investigation of whether pardons should be given. The president, however, has taken a strong personal interest in it and is determined to have reached his own decision.

SHIP LETS SLIP CHANCE TO FLEE

Whirling, Blinding Storm Fails to Tempt Elte to Make Dash Through British Guards.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—A whirling gale and snow storm which enveloped the Virginian capes last night and today did not tempt the German auxiliary cruiser Prince Elte Friedrich to make a dash for the sea through the corridor of hostile cruisers outside. At 1 p.m. today an official government dispatch from Hampton Roads said the German raider still was moored to her wharf.

The storm which drew the curtain of secrecy over the Prince Elte for a few hours by destroying all means of communication with the Hampton Roads district, save wireless, besides destroying voyage freshly coaled, supplied and equipped, started a crop of rumors and reports that the German cruiser had slipped out of the harbor and past the cruisers at the entrance to Chesapeake Bay.

When the government agencies, after much effort, got in touch with Newport News, Virginia, it was established that the Prince Elte had attempted no new daring exploits, but still furnished a day to day mystery as to her commander's future course.

**IN SPELLING CONTEST**

Marguerite Tesler of Choctaw Township won contest on which County Students Took Part Today.

Miss Marguerite Tesler of Choctaw township is the champion speller in the county schools of Oklahoma county. Such was the decision of the judges in the spelling contest held in County Superintendent Anna Burks Love's office this morning in which fifteen candidates for the honor and gold medal competed. The following pupils took part in the contest: Sophia Kuhman, Marie Putnam, Margaret Atkinson, Wesley Flemon, Ida Kearby, Edna Alward, Marguerite Casey, Wesley Welds, Minnie Barber, Lena Levine, Audrey Tiller, Josephine McCoy, Frank Kuhn, Bertha Keefer and Marjorie Young.

The winner of the contest is a pupil of district school Number 48 of which Walter McCracken is principal. The word among one hundred which she failed to spell properly was "envelope."

Marie Putnam of Oklahoma township and Audrey Tiller each made a score of 98 per cent, having missed two words or one more than the winner of the event.

**BOMB IS FOUND IN YARD OF GREEK MINISTER, SOFIA**

ROMA, April 3.—A bomb was found in the Greek minister's yard, close to his office in Sofia, Bulgaria.

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## RUSSIANS FORCE WAY TO VICTORY

Struggle in Carpathians Is Near-  
ing End, Favorable  
For Allies.

## STAGNATION ON WEST FRONT

British Press Outraged At Latest  
Protest of Germans To  
Americans.

LONDON, April 3.—The fluctuating struggle in the Carpathians seems to be nearing its decision. By successive dashes amid ice and snow Russian troops are said to have carried a series of Austrian lines and British observers say they did fair soon to break through in force between the Yukon and Uzak passes.

In the west conditions bordering on stagnation prevail. The allies are keeping the Germans in the dark as to when and where the big thrust will come and meanwhile they are speculating whether the invaders of France will risk a serious offensive, while the situation in the east remains precarious.

The British press, in addition to being universally outraged that the Germans should protest to the American embassy regarding segregation of the captured crews of submarines is making much of the death of Leon Threshier, the American who lost his life in the sinking of the Falaba.

The discussion for and against absolute prohibition of alcoholic liquor continues with few definite results.

**WOULD TRADE WIVES**

Mail Carrier Made Suggestion to  
Widow of Man He Is Charged  
With Killing.

PAOLA, Kan., April 3.—Cross-examination was begun today of Mrs. Maude McElheny, widow of George B. McElheny, postmaster at Louisburg, Kansas, who was slain by a shot through a door in his home there in October, 1912, in the preliminary hearing of Roscoe Hornbaker, Hornbaker, a rural mail carrier in Louisburg, held in connection with the murderer.

Mrs. McElheny testified late yesterday that her relations with Hornbaker both before and after her husband's death, had been improper and that Hornbaker several times had proposed to her that he trade wives with McElheny and that on one occasion he urged her to put poison in her husband's food.

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**WILL LOWER RECORD**

Manager Paul Brusky of the Maxwell Team Says Oldfield and Carlson Will Try Their Best For It.

A telegram stating that the Maxwell team, composed of Barlow Oldfield and Billy Carlson, will attempt to lower the world's record on April 22 was received from Paul H. Brusky the team's manager, today. It was sent to George W. Woods, manager of the Southwest Auto Racing association from Detroit, where Brusky had learned of the additional \$1,000 inducement offered by President Coolidge.

Mrs. McElheny also testified one of the arguments used by Hornbaker in his attempt to win her from her husband was that "she was worth \$20,000 and had life insurance."

Today as yesterday, Mrs. McElheny apparently displayed no emotion on the stand. Hornbaker's eyes rarely left the widow's face.

On cross-examination of Mrs. McElheny, attorneys for the defense apparently sought to establish that she took the initiative in her acquittance with Hornbaker.

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**AUSTRIAN SUCCESSES ARE**

## War at a Glance

The attitude of Russia concerning Italy's territorial aspirations is defined in a semi-official announcement from Petrograd which assumes special significance because of Italy's war-like preparations and the efforts to adjust the boundary question with Austria.

Russia, in effect, expresses sympathy with Italy's desire to obtain territory about the head of the Adriatic inhabited chiefly by people of Italian stock which would include the provinces of Trent and Trieste. Russia would not oppose still further expansion, but warns Italy not to press her claims to a point which might bring on another conflict later. At the same time it is said that the imperialistic attitude towards the Adriatic attributed to Russia is absurd.

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